CA3 ON HW 058
78 S72S

SUMMARY AND EVALUATION OF THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OUTREACH PROGRAM

HAMILTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
AUG 20 1984
GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS

SUMMARY

JUNE, 1978

THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The summary and evaluation report of the Community Development Outreach Program (C.D.O.P.) was prepared by the Community Development Advisory Committee (C.D.A.C.) of the Social Planning and Research Council.

The purpose of the report is to outline what C.D.O.P. was, what it accomplished, to what extent the project objectives were met, the problems it encountered, and what future courses of action should be taken in its regard.

The final report is divided into two parts. Part One summarizes and evaluates the Community Development Outreach program. Part Two discusses the difficulties in the design of the Canada Works Program which affected this community development project.

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2023 with funding from
Hamilton Public Library

https://archive.org/details/summaryevaluatio00unse_0

PART ONE

1. Introduction:

On February 4, 1977 the Community Development Advisory Committee (C.D.A.C.) applied for the funding of a Canada Works project called the Community Development Outreach Program (C.D.O.P.). The purpose of this project was to attend to the need for community workers in the Hamilton-Wentworth region - a need which had been intensified by the Social Services Restraint Program of 1976.

The "Community Worker Position Paper" published by the Social Planning and Research Council in December, 1976 documented a very real decline in the numbers of community workers while the need for workers remained constant.

The Community Development Outreach Program was to make available five such workers to be placed in organizations whose need would be determined by the sponsoring body - the C.D.A.C. A support staff including a project manager and a secretary/bookkeeper brought to seven the total project staff number.

Following an initial rejection of its application, Canada Works granted the C.D.A.C. a contract to fund the Community Development Outreach Program for 46 weeks - from May 16, 1977 until March 31, 1978.

In preparing the final report, project staff, supervisors, and members of the sponsoring body, the C.D.A.C. were asked for their opinions and observations. The difficulties endured because of the design of Canada Works and its apparent inapplicability to community development work identified in an interim report, to the S.P.R.C. Board did not appreciably change in the second half of the project. The C.D.A.C. therefore thought it appropriate to include a section in the final report entitled "Difficulties Experienced as They Relate to Canada Works Program". Were appropriate funding available, it is the opinion of the C.D.A.C. that this approach to community development is viable.

The Community Development Outreach Program represented a major undertaking on the part of the Social Planning and Research Council in the area of community development. The experience of C.D.O.P. reaffirmed the need for community development resources in the Hamilton-Wentworth Region.

2. Summary of Projects:

A section of the final report outlines the methodology and criteria used in selecting project areas for C.D.O.P. staff. Also included

are descriptions of each of the nine projects which highlight the major functions performed by the workers throughout the time frame of the Community Development Outreach Program.

The nine project areas were:

i) York Place
ii) Locke Street Youth Services
iii) Lodging Homes
iv) Citizen Action Group
v) Hamilton-Wentworth Council of Advocates
vi) Access to Information
vii) Committee on Vandalism
viii) McQuesten Community Association
ix) Greensville

The projects in which C.D.O.P. was involved varied in nature. The majority, such as Locke Street Youth Services and the Council of Advocates required the workers to assist in the development of a strong organizational frame work for the group. Others such as Citizen Action Group and Access to Information required assistance from the workers to do research. The C.D.A.C. felt research was a useful task where it would benefit groups or agencies in better serving the disadvantaged in Hamilton-Wentworth.

For the most part, the projects were successful in achieving their objectives.

3. Evaluation of the Community Development Outreach Program:

The Community Development Advisory Committee (C.D.A.C.) in applying for funds under Phase One of Canada Works, indicated that an evaluation of the project would take place upon its completion. This evaluation was based on C.D.A.C. objectives as well as the objectives of the Job Creation Branch. The purpose of the evaluation was to determine to what extent the project objectives were met.

In the preparation of the evaluation, questionnaires were developed and divided into four distinct categories. The categories were:

a) Individual project goals - to be answered by project supervisors

b) Overall C.D.O.P. project goals - to be answered by C.D.O.P. staff

c) C.D.O.P. project goals - to be answered by C.D.A.C. members.

d) Skill development goals - to be answered by C.D.O.P. staff.

These questionnaires were administered at the end of the project (March 31, 1978) and the results tabulated.

The Community Development Advisory Committee identified two main objectives of its Canada Works project - to assist in meeting the need for community workers in Hamilton-Wentworth and to provide workers to informally organized and/or emerging groups and to those groups in crisis situations.

Examination of evaluation results suggests that these objectives were achieved. The extent of their achievement was influenced by the time frame of the project and the fact that the need for community workers is much greater than could be met by C.D.O.P.

In terms of the Job Creation Branch's objectives, most were met by C.D.O.P. Jobs were created which were over and above those that would normally exist in the community, jobs were created that increased the skills of project employees. A worthwhile service to the community was provided and a dependency by groups on C.D.O.P. was not created.

One Job Creation Branch objective not achieved was creating new jobs that matched the skills of the locally unemployed. It was next to impossible to find skilled community workers. A great deal of time was spent in training of staff which was further aggravated when staff left the project.

PART TWO

1. Difficulties Experienced As They Relate To The Design Of The Canada Works Program

The Community Development Outreach Program (C.D.O.P.) operated a total of forty-six weeks from May 16, 1977 to March 31, 1978. It was designed to employ seven people - one project manager, one secretary/bookkeeper and five community workers. The project encountered numerous problems, none insurmountable, but none the less problems which made the functioning of C.D.O.P. difficult. The purpose of this section in the final report is to outline the problems the S.P.R.C. encountered with this particular job creation program.

Based on the experiences of the sponsors of this particular (Canada Works) project, there are a number of inherent problems in the design of the Canada Works Program at least as they relate to carrying out community development activities.

The lack of a start-up phase and a close out phase place a great many demands on project sponsors. C.D.O.P. objectives of community development were at cross-purposes to the intent of the program which was job creation. The financial structure of Canada Works, i.e., operating costs being tied to the number of workers, the delays in cheques, etc., placed undue hardships on the project and the sponsor. Communicating with Canada Manpower counsellors as to the nature of community development proved to be somewhat trying. These problems had the combined effect of making the implementation of C.D.O.P. an arduous task.

In considering the problems experienced by C.D.O.P., adjustments in the design of the Canada Works Program would go a long way in improving the delivery of the services the sponsor intends to provide.